

2002 or later). Whereas the present application has a priority date of July 20, 2001, Applicants respectfully assert that they believe Manttari is not prior art to the pending claims.

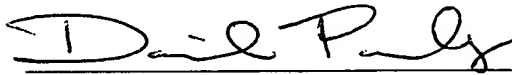
In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.



Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 19, 2004



Daniel M. Pauly
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DMP:ck